

## NOTES ON CONFUCIUS AND CONFUCIANISM

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551 BC

1. Confucius was born: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Confucianism is an ethical system, not a religion. (Ethics deals with human behavior and conduct.)

3. He developed a system of:

government, justice and society4. He believed it is important for people to know how to behave in society

5. The Five Relationships:

ruler and subjectfather and sonhusband and wifefriend and friendelder brother and younger brother6. Power and right belong to older people over young people, men over women. Everybody has to give obedience and respect to superiors. Superiors owe responsibility to inferiors.7. Confucius placed importance on family because the child learns how to deal with problems that he/she will face later.8. The government was seen as an extension of the family.

9.To become a governmental official it was necessary to pass a difficult examination based on the ideas of Confucius.

10.Confucius was not interested in ideas associated with religion (God, heaven, etc) but religious functions were incorporated into it.

11.Confucius became an object of worship and temples were built all over China for him.

12.Do you think Confucian teachings are something people can relate to today?

Explain.

People today (especially in Asia) can definitely relate to Confucian teachings. People were taught to respect others, but especially the elders. Also Confucius's idea of family being significant can be found today as well, for children learn morals and ethics from parents and start attending schools at an early age to interact with different people.  
~~But since the society has changed so much, there are some parts people can't relate to. For example, people today wouldn't be able to understand why men are superior to women, since nowadays gender equality has~~  
spread widely.